



Employee News

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

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October 2002

SE REGIONAL CENTER OUTREACH TEAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED

The SE Regional Center Outreach Team of 27 staff has been approved. The Team was developed to provide technical assistance, consultation, training and limited back up services in the following areas: Behavior Management, Adaptive Equipment, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Audiology, Medical Services, Dentistry, Neurology, Nursing Care, Vocational/Habilitation and Dietary.

FSSA is committed to providing a continuum of care that is community-based and close to home — when possible. As we develop the eight regional service systems outlined in the State Operated Facilities Report, an array of services will be available to people with developmental disabilities, mental illness and addiction problems. When creating service regions, the most important factor is ensuring services are available in the region or near the consumer.

The first regional service area of 18 counties will be located in Madison. A variety of outreach supports and services will be provided. Local input was key in determining the services that are needed. This is evident with the development of the outreach team for individuals with developmental disabilities. Services were based on the recommendations of the SE Indiana Regional Center Configuration Work Group. The work group members included parents, family members, advocates and providers.

Mission of DD outreach team:

- To protect the health and safety of individuals and improve their quality of life — through the provision of information, supports and services to individuals, their families, service providers and targeted case managers.

Medicaid Waiver Program Workshops

November 7 – Fort Wayne

1-4 pm & 6-9pm
Allen Co. Public Library
900 Webster St.

November 13 – Seymour

1-4 pm & 6-9 pm
Jackson Co. Public Library
Seymour Branch
Walnut & 2nd St.

November 8 – Portland

1-4 pm & 6-9 pm
Jay Co. Public Library
315 N. Ship St.

November 16 - Franklin

9:15 am – noon
Johnson Co. Public Library
Franklin Branch
401 S. State St.

November 9 – Marion

9 am – noon
Marion Public Library
600 S. Washington St.

December 3 – Richmond

1-4 pm & 6-9 pm
Friends Fellowship
2030 Chester Blvd.

November 12 – New Albany

1-4 pm & 6-9 pm
Carnegie Center
201 E. Spring St.

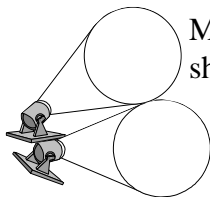
December 5 – Lafayette

1-4 pm & 6-9 pm
Ivy Tech, Ivy Hall,
Eli Lilly Rm.
3101 S. Creasy Lane

see related story, pg. 4

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Highlighting Staff Achievements



Michael Stewart and his wife share the responsibilities of raising six children. Teresa Couch and her husband share the responsibilities of raising their four children. Both Michael and Teresa work as DSTs at Muscatatuck. Teresa reports to work at 10:30 p.m. as Michael is preparing to leave for home. It will be close to 7 a.m. when Teresa completes her shift. Somewhere in the midst of caring for their respective families and trying to find time for sleep, both Michael and Teresa are striving to receive a high school diploma. Michael is pursuing his degree through a program affiliated with Indiana University while Teresa is working with a program from James Madison High School in Norcross Georgia.

Michael grew up in the French Lick area, attended elementary school in Paoli and completed three years at Springs Valley High School. Family problems led Michael to drop out of high school. He then worked at the French Lick Springs resort for the next four years. After a brief period in Texas, Michael moved to North Vernon. He began working at MSDC in November of 2000. Michael's wife Sheila is also an MSDC employee.

Most of Teresa's life has been spent in the North Vernon area, a year in Colorado during grade school being the only diversion. Teresa describes herself as a good student. Mid-way through her junior year of high school, Teresa dropped out to marry and begin a family. Three years ago, Teresa began working at MSDC. Her husband is employed at ENKEI in Wellsboro.

A total of seven MSDC employees have chosen to complete requirements for high school diplomas. Each of the seven has a unique story as to why it became necessary to drop out of school. Now, as their time at MSDC is coming to a close, the importance of having a high school diploma becomes critical for a sense of accomplishment and moving to another area of employment.

Teresa and Michael are to be commended.



Teresa Couch



Michael Stewart

Managing Change

The one thing we can count on in life is that things will change. Change can be exciting, bringing new opportunities and experiences. But change can also be difficult. The following suggestions can help you manage change.

- Deal with change directly. Don't pretend that ignoring a change will make it go away; this just makes the change harder on you.
- Talk about it. Sharing your experience with friends and family members can help.
- See the change as an opportunity rather than a threat. Changes may seem threatening, but they can enrich your life.
- Try to limit how often change occurs in your life. Adapting to new situations is harder when you have many changes occurring at once.
- Try managing stress. Because change is stressful, it's important to have positive ways of minimizing stress.
- Take care of yourself. Your ability to deal with change will be better if you eat healthy foods, exercise and make time for your favorite activities.

Getting Help

Check your employee benefits to see what services are available. You can also talk with someone you can trust, such as a doctor or nurse, local mental health professional or member of the clergy.

Reprinted as a courtesy of the Indiana State Personnel Department EASY Program with permission of Magellan Behavioral Health Services, Inc. www.magellanassist.com
1-800-223-7723

The State of Indiana Job Bank

The following Web sites have information regarding the job bank:

- www.IndianaStateJobs.org
- <http://www.in.gov/jobs/stateemployment/jobbank.html>
- <http://www.state.in.us/jobs/jobbank/openingscreen.html>

Accessing the Job Bank:

- Madison State Hospital Job Resource Center located in the Annex.
- Muscatatuck SDC located in the Human Resources Department.

Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities. If you are unfamiliar with computers and the Internet *ask* someone for assistance. Individuals love to share their Internet knowledge.

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

*Booker T. Washington
1856-1915, Educator*

Janet Corson retiring... Janet first came to FSSA as deputy director of public policy DMHA, and has served as division director for almost five years. Janet has dedicated herself to providing services to those who need our support – in the community, at home, in residential settings and state hospitals. Her dedication and commitment to excellence have enhanced the lives of many fellow Hoosiers.

(SE Regional Center, continued from page 1)

Role and function of the DD outreach team:

- To provide formal training regarding contemporary topics to consumers, their families, service providers, targeted case managers, and state staff in the southeast region of Indiana. When possible training will be provided in the community close to the consumer. The goal is to have consistent training provided across the state. Training topics will be determined based on identified needs through the analysis and synthesis of quality/risk data.
- To provide technical assistance and consultation regarding state of the art practices to consumers, their families, service providers, targeted case managers, and state staff in the southeast region of Indiana. Hands on technical assistance will be provided . The goal is to implement state of the art practices across the state, which will promote enhanced quality of service. Consultation will be provided based on identified needs through the analysis and synthesis of quality/risk data and requests from providers and targeted case managers. Outreach staff will provide current information on an ongoing basis.

Staff will be available to provide consultation via the phone or E-mail in a timely manner. In addition, it is anticipated that current literature will be provided through a consortium of all regional centers and the Indiana Institute on Disabilities and Community. These regional centers will be an excellent source of locally based information.

Cindy Speer has been hired as the Assistant Southeast Regional Director for DD Services. Cindy comes to this position from Muscatatuck SDC. Other team members will be hired in three phases over the next several months. Outreach services currently provided will convert to the permanent DD outreach team.

FSSA is pleased to expand community-based services to assist individuals and families.

Future issues

- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Features & Training Updates
- FSSA Regional Planning Series
- Governor's Commission on
Home & Community-Based Services
- Questions & Answers with
Secretary John Hamilton

Public Hearing

Required by SB 217

Wednesday, November 6, 2002

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

To gather written and oral testimony from interested persons regarding the effects of downsizing and closure of MSDC on current residents, residents' families and employees.

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7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

To gather written and oral testimony from interested persons regarding the effect of downsizing and closure of MSDC on surrounding communities.

Location:

Jennings County Public Library
2375 N. State Highway 3
North Vernon, IN
812-346-2091

Handy Numbers and Web Sites:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

maintained by FSSA to answer your questions

**Indiana Department of
Workforce Development:**

1-888-WORKONE (967-5663)

www.IN.gov/dwd

available to assist with job search concerns